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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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7590 06/03/2004			EXAMINER	
Richard E. Oney FENNEMORE CRAIG Suite 2600 3003 North Central Phoenix, AZ 85012			BURGE, LONDRA C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	
DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/780,599

Applicant(s)

RYAN ET AL.

Examiner

Londra C Burge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Original application filed 2/10/2001 and IDS filed 5/14/2001
2. Claims 1-54 are pending. Claims 1, 22, 43, 47, 51 and 54 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. **The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:**

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

In regard to claims 23-26, Claims 23-26 are rejected under 112 second paragraph.

Claim 23, which depends on claim 1, should dependent on independent claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. **Claims 1-4, 6, 11-13, 15-16, 22-25, 27, 32-34, 36-37 43-45, 47-48, 50-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/2999.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Stuppy discloses *A method for distributing and collecting information for an electronic workbook that includes a plurality of worksheets* (Stuppy Abstract Lines 1-17), *the method comprising: assigning a contributor to a worksheet of the*

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workbook by associating with the worksheet identifying information for the contributor (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table); associating with the worksheet distribution information for distributing the worksheet (Stuppy Col 11 Lines 47-50 i.e. review information about a student and assign the instructional material); and distributing the worksheet to the assigned contributor based on the identifying information and the distribution information. (Stuppy Col 11 Lines 50-54 i.e. work assigned automatically by the system in accordance with the student profiles).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Stuppy discloses *wherein associating with the worksheet identifying information for the contributor comprises embedding the identifying information in the worksheet. (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)(Stuppy Col 2 Lines 19-24 i.e. student profile updates in response to the student input data and teacher input data).*

In regard to dependent claim 3, Stuppy discloses *wherein embedding identifying information in the worksheet comprises storing one or more name-value pairs within the worksheet. (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)*

In regard to dependent claim 4, Stuppy discloses *wherein storing one or more name-value pairs within the worksheet comprises storing a name-value pair having the contributor's name. (Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name)*

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In regard to dependent claim 6, Stuppy discloses *wherein associating with the worksheet distribution information for distributing the worksheet comprises storing one or more name-value pairs within the workbook.* (Stuppy Col 11 Lines 47-50 i.e. review information about a student and assign the instructional material) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

In regard to dependent claim 11, Stuppy discloses *wherein associating with the worksheet distribution information for distributing the worksheet includes associating with the worksheet information for receiving returned contributions to the worksheet.* (Stuppy Col 11 Lines 47-50 i.e. review information about a student and assign the instructional material) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

In regard to dependent claim 12, Stuppy discloses *wherein associating with the worksheet information for receiving returned contributions to the worksheet includes embedding information in the returned contribution for receiving the returned contribution.* (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

In regard to dependent claim 13, Stuppy discloses *wherein embedding information in the returned contribution includes storing one or more name-value returned contribution pairs within the returned contribution.* (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored

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and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

In regard to dependent claim 15, Stuppy discloses *collecting a returned contribution to the worksheet and associating the returned contribution with the workbook*. (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)

In regard to dependent claim 16, Stuppy discloses *wherein collecting the returned contribution includes using the information embedded in the returned contribution to associate the contribution with the workbook*. (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

In regard to independent claim 22, claim 22 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 23, claim 23 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 24, claim 24 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

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A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 25, claim 25 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 27, claim 27 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 32, claim 32 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 33, Stuppy discloses *wherein the processor programmed to associate with the worksheet information for collecting returned contributions to the worksheet is programmed to read embedded information in a returned contribution for receiving the returned contribution.* (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor) (Stuppy Abstract Lines 1-17) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

In regard to dependent claim 34, Stuppy discloses *wherein the processor programmed to read embedded information in the returned contribution is programmed to read one or more*

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name-value pairs stored within the returned contribution. (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

In regard to dependent claim 36, claim 36 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 15 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 37, Stuppy discloses *wherein the processor programmed to collect a returned contribution to the worksheet and associate the returned contribution with the workbook is programmed to use the information embedded in the returned contribution to associate the contribution with the workbook. A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation) (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)*

In regard to independent claim 43, Stuppy discloses *an electronic workbook comprising at least one worksheet, the worksheet including embedded information for assigning a contributor to the worksheet (Stuppy Abstract Lines 1-17). (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)*

In regard to dependent claim 44, claim 44 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Electronic Workbook (Stuppy Abstract Line 4)

In regard to dependent claim 45, claim 45 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Electronic Workbook (Stuppy Abstract Line 4)

In regard to independent claim 47, Stuppy discloses *an electronic workbook comprising at least one worksheet, the workbook including embedded information for distributing the workbook.* (Stuppy Abstract Lines 1-17) (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)

In regard to dependent claim 48, Stuppy discloses wherein the embedded information comprises one or more name-value pairs stored within the workbook. (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

In regard to dependent claim 50, Stuppy discloses *wherein the embedded information for distributing the workbook includes information for receiving returned contributions to the worksheet.* (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

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In regard to independent claim 51, Stuppy discloses *the contribution to an electronic workbook having at least one including embedded information for returning the contribution to a distributor of the workbook.* (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table) (Stuppy Col 29 lines 29-34 i.e. collecting student input data from the student workstation to the teacher's workstation)

In regard to dependent claim 52, Stuppy discloses *wherein the embedded information includes one or more name-value pairs stored within the contribution.* (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 5, 7-8, 14, 18, 26, 28-29, 35, 39, 46, 49 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/1999 as applied to claims 1, 22, 43, 47 and 51 in view of Schwartz et al. (herein after Schwartz) U.S. Patent No. 5,913,032 filed 9/30/1996 provided by the applicant.**

In regard to dependent claim 5, Stuppy discloses *wherein storing one or more name-value pairs within the worksheet*. (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

Stuppy does not mention *storing an email address for the contributor*. However, Schwartz mentions users that have electronic mail to receive messages (Schwartz Col 21 Lines 27-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having an email addresses for the user to send and receive messages and establish workgroup relationships with remote users as taught by Schwartz Col 21 Lines 27-36.

In regard to dependent claim 7, Stuppy discloses *wherein storing one or more name-value pairs within the workbook comprises storing in the workbook one or more name-value pairs* (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

Stuppy does not mention *a distributor's name, a distributor's email address, a distributor's reply email address, special instructions, a master workbook name, a master workbook date, a due back date, information regarding how the workbook will be distributed and distribution status* in the name-value fields. However, Schwartz mentions *a distributor's name* (Schwartz Fig 6B i.e. distributed by field and Col 18 Lines 63-64 i.e. name field), *a distributor's email address, and a distributor's reply email address* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 53-55 i.e. Distributed by field shows the address if the person who mailed or published the page) *special instructions* (Schwartz Fig 6A and 6B i.e. Description field can contain special

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instructions), *a master workbook name* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 63-64 i.e. Name field) *a master workbook date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field) *a due back date* (Schwartz Col 19 Lines 1-6 i.e. the user can rename the buttons which could contain a due date field), *and information regarding how the workbook will be distributed and distribution status* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 56-59 i.e. Status field). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having the many different name value filed to provide information about a user the content as taught by Schwartz Col 18 Lines 42-67 and Col 19 Lines 1-7.

In regard to dependent claim 8, Stuppy discloses *wherein storing one or more name-value pairs within the worksheet comprises storing a name-value pair* (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

Stuppy does not mention *having the distributor's name and information identifying a medium for distributing the worksheet*. However, Schwartz mentions *a distributor's name* (Schwartz Fig 6B i.e. distributed by field and Col 18 Lines 63-64 i.e. name field) *and information identifying a medium for distributing the worksheet* (Schwartz Fig 3F i.e. the port field baud field contain information about the medium sending the information). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having the many different name value filed to provide information about a user the content as taught by Schwartz Col 18 Lines 42-67 and Col 19 Lines 1-7 and the have information about the medium so the user can identify the modem and communication regions as taught by Schwartz Col 13 Lines 11-17.

In regard to dependent claim 14, Stuppy discloses *wherein storing one or more name-value pairs within a returned contribution includes storing in the contribution one or more name-value pairs* (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date)

Stuppy does not mention *including one or more of a contributor replied date, a contributor reply key, a contributor returned date, and information regarding how the contribution was returned, a contributor replied date*. However, Schwartz mentions *including one or more of a contributor replied date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field), *a contributor reply key* (It is well know in the art to have a reply button to return emails), *a contributor returned date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field), *and information regarding how the contribution was returned* (Schwartz Col 19 Lines 1-6 i.e. the user can rename the buttons to mention how the contribution was returned). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having the many different name value filed to provide information about a user the content as taught by Schwartz Col 18 Lines 42-67 and Col 19 Lines 1-7.

In regard to dependent claim 18, Stuppy does not specifically mention *wherein collecting an assigned contributor's contribution includes automatically reading the distributor's email inbox to identify email messages that include returned contributions to a worksheet*. (Schwartz Fig 6B and Col 18 Lines 53-55 i.e. Distributed by field shows the address if the person who mailed or published the page) (Schwartz Fig 6A and 6B i.e. Description field can contain a messages sent by the distributor or contributor) It would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having fields the contain addresses and messages which can be viewed to find out information as taught by Schwartz Figure 6Ba and Col 18 Lines 53-55.

In regard to dependent claim 26, claim 26 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 28, claim 28 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 29, claim 29 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 8 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claims 35 and 53, claims 35 and 53 contain the same subject matter as claimed in claim 14 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 39, claim 39 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 18 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

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In regard to dependent claim 46, claim 46 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Electronic Workbook (Stuppy Abstract Line 4)

In regard to dependent claim 49, claim 49 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Electronic Workbook (Stuppy Abstract Line 4)

8. **Claims 9 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/2999 as applied to claims 1 and 22 in view of Brown et al. (herein after Brown) U.S. Patent No. 6,671,806 B1 filed 6/17/1999.**

In regard to dependent claim 9, Stuppy does not mention *packaging the worksheet to restrict viewing of the worksheet to the assigned contributor before distributing the worksheet to the assigned contributor*. However, Brown mentions the ability to restrict the viewing and/or modification of particular portions of a document (Brown Col 12 Lines 17-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of restricting views of a document to protect sensitive documents from being view as taught by Brown Col 12 Lines 13-31.

In regard to dependent claim 30, claim 30 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 9 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

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9. **Claims 10 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/2999 as applied to claims 1 and 22 in view of Richards U.S. Patent No. 6,292,810 B1 filed 3/3/1998.**

In regard to dependent claim 10, Stuppy discloses *encrypting the worksheet before distributing the worksheet to the assigned contributor*. (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the table)

Stuppy does not mention *encrypting a worksheet*. However, Richards mentions altering a permutation control before a process commences (Richards Col 99 Lines 65-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of altering before initiated events occur as taught by Richards Col 99 Lines 59-67.

In regard to dependent claim 31, claim 31 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 10 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

10. **Claims 17, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/2999 as applied to claims 1 and 22 in view of Naden U.S. Patent No. 4,424,099 filed 3/3/1998.**

In regard to dependent claim 17, Stuppy does not mention *decrypting a contribution*. However, Naden mentions a decipher means (Naden Col 6 lines 15-17). It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Naden to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of deciphering to generate the sequence of bits associated with the strip as taught by Naden Col 6 Lines 15-17.

In regard to dependent claim 38, claim 38 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 17 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

11. **Claims 19 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/2999 as applied to claims 1 and 22 in view of Alvarez et al. (herein after Alvarez) U.S. Patent No. 5,535,324 filed 9/22/1994.**

In regard to dependent claim 19, Stuppy does not mention *selectively merging the associated contribution with the workbook to create a merged workbook*. However, Alvarez mentions how a user can move various data on a spreadsheet to merge with other corresponding data (Alvarez Col 1 Lines 47-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of merging data in a spreadsheet or worksheet to broaden the capabilities available in the spreadsheet as taught by Alvarez Col 1 Lines 43-52.

In regard to dependent claim 40, claim 40 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 19 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

12. **Claims 20-21, 41-42, 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuppy U.S. Patent No. 6,146,148 filed 3/25/1999 as applied to claims 1 and 22 in view of Schwartz et al. (herein after Schwartz) U.S. Patent No. 5,913,032 filed 9/30/1996 provided by the applicant, and in view of Alvarez et al. (herein after Alvarez) U.S. Patent No. 5,535,324 filed 9/22/1994.**

In regard to dependent claim 20, Stuppy does not mention *wherein selectively merging the associated contribution with the workbook to create a merged workbook includes making a temporary copy of the merged workbook*. However, Alvarez mentions how a user can move various data on a spreadsheet to merge with other corresponding data (Alvarez Col 1 Lines 47-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of merging data in a spreadsheet or worksheet to broaden the capabilities available in the spreadsheet as taught by Alvarez Col 1 Lines 43-52.

Schwartz mentions making a copy of a data object (Schwartz Col 71 Lines 41-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of storing a copy of a particular data object locally for sharing data objects among users of a workgroup to user specified criteria as taught by Schwartz Col 71 Lines 30-57.

In regard to dependent claim 21, Stuppy does not mention *saving the temporary copy of the merged workbook as a new workbook*. However, Alvarez mentions how a user can move various data on a spreadsheet to merge with other corresponding data (Alvarez Col 1 Lines 47-

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48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of merging data in a spreadsheet or worksheet to broaden the capabilities available in the spreadsheet as taught by Alvarez Col 1 Lines 43-52.

Schwartz mentions making a copy of a data object, which could be saved (Schwartz Col 71 Lines 41-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of storing a copy of a particular data object locally for sharing data objects among users of a workgroup to user specified criteria as taught by Schwartz Col 71 Lines 30-57.

In regard to dependent claim 41, claim 41 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 20 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to dependent claim 42, claim 42 in addition to the following contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 21 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A System and processor (Stuppy Col 4 Lines 35-40 i.e. system and Col 5 Lines 44-46 i.e. processor)

In regard to independent claim 54, Stuppy discloses *the worksheet including embedded information for distributing the workbook and collecting contributions to the workbook, the workbook having stored therein one or more name-value pairs that include one or more of an assigned contributor's name* (Stuppy Col 27 Lines 23-25 i.e. tasks assigned by the teacher and Col 27 Lines 14-16 i.e. workbook generated by the student profile for each student at the

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table)(Stuppy Col 2 Lines 19-24 i.e. student profile updates in response to the student input data and teacher input data). (Stuppy Col 11 Lines 47-50 i.e. review information about a student and assign the instructional material) (Stuppy Col 6 lines 30-32 i.e. stored and Stuppy Col 15-16 Tables 3-5 shows values that include information such as the students first and last name, grade and birth date).

Stuppy does not mention *a distributor's name, a distributor's email address, a distributor's reply email address, special instructions, a master workbook name, a master workbook date, a due back date, information regarding how the workbook will be distributed and distribution status* in the name-value fields. However, Schwartz mentions *a distributor's name* (Schwartz Fig 6B i.e. distributed by field and Col 18 Lines 63-64 i.e. name field), *a distributor's email address, and a distributor's reply email address* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 53-55 i.e. Distributed by field shows the address if the person who mailed or published the page) *special instructions* (Schwartz Fig 6A and 6B i.e. Description field can contain special instructions), *a master workbook name* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 63-64 i.e. Name field) *a master workbook date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field) *a due back date* (Schwartz Col 19 Lines 1-6 i.e. the user can rename the buttons which could contain a due date field), *and information regarding how the workbook will be distributed and distribution status* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 56-59 i.e. Status field). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having the many different name value filed to provide information about a user the content as taught by Schwartz Col 18 Lines 42-67 and Col 19 Lines 1-7.

Stuppy does not mention *including one or more of a contributor replied date, a contributor reply key, a contributor returned date, and information regarding how the contribution was returned, a contributor replied date*. However, Schwartz mentions *including one or more of a contributor replied date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field), *a contributor reply key* (It is well know in the art to have a reply button to return emails), *a contributor returned date* (Schwartz Col 18 Lines 54-56 i.e. Date last distributed field), and *information regarding how the contribution was returned* (Schwartz Col 19 Lines 1-6 i.e. the user can rename the buttons to mention how the contribution was returned). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Schwartz to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of having the many different name value filed to provide information about a user the content as taught by Schwartz Col 18 Lines 42-67 and Col 19 Lines 1-7.

Stuppy does not mention *selectively merging the associated contribution with the workbook to create a merged workbook*. However, Alvarez mentions how a user can move various data on a spreadsheet to merge with other corresponding data (Alvarez Col 1 Lines 47-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Alvarez to Stuppy providing Stuppy the benefit of merging data in a spreadsheet or worksheet to broaden the capabilities available in the spreadsheet as taught by Alvarez Col 1 Lines 43-52.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is 703-305-8784. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Londra Burge
5/14/2004


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER